

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, and 12 are amended. Claims 13 and 14 are added. Claims 1, 6-10, and 12-14 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 1 and 12 are amended herewith. The claim amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification and claims.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH THE EXAMINER

First, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant's representative on March 7, 2007, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Arguments similar to the ones developed hereinafter were presented and the Examiner indicated that in light of the arguments, the amended claims appear to distinguish over the cited prior art, and he would reconsider the outstanding grounds for rejection upon formal submission of a response.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 6, and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Epixtech in view of JP 11-110441 to Saito et al. (hereinafter "Saito") and Google Groups Printout.

Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least by reciting

- collation information receiving means for generating collation information when a book ordered by the ordering means has been previously ordered by another individual library, said collation information including information identifying each individual library that has ordered the book;
- said book stock information management means registers an information whether the book is collated or not to said book stock information based on said ordering information and said collation information, and
- said loan reserving means registers a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered.

Claims 6-10 are also patentably at least by inheriting patentable features from claim 1 from which they depend.

Claim 12 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least by reciting

- generating collation information when an ordered book has been previously ordered by another individual library, said collation information including information identifying each individual library that has ordered the book; and
- registering an ordered book in book stock information as a loan reserved book when a request for loan reserving is entered, wherein, when a loan of a book is conducted between different libraries, said managing loan information enables a predetermined library to modify the loan information of another library, information whether the book is collated or not to said book stock information is registered based on said ordering information and said collation information, and a book is registered in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epixtech in view of Saito and Google as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,897 to Rubin et al. ("Rubin").

Regarding the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Rubin relates to a method and apparatus for optimizing orders for goods or services to increase a discount. Applicants respectfully submit that Rubin fails to add anything that would remedy the aforementioned deficiencies of the combination of Epixtech, Saito, and the Google Groups Printout. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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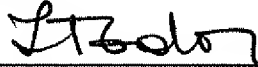
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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